

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Queen Elizabeth School on the 13 th June, 1985.

Present: Councillor B.P. Doherty (Town Mayor);  
Councillors Mrs. E.C. Conway, Mrs. J.B. Doherty,  
M.J. Hopkinson, R.T.D. Hughes, J.M. James, J.H. Lewis,  
W.R. Looker, L. Miller, C.W. Parcell, Mrs. C. Parker,  
Mrs. V. Warris, A.E. Sursham and Mrs. P. Tenten.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. M.L. Middlemiss.

Messrs. G.J. Davey, Area Education Officer, and R. Probyn, Principal Planning Officer, were present by invitation to give information on subjects to be considered.

85/14 GODMANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL - PROPOSED.

It was reported that following a meeting of the Primary School Governors at which the concept of a community school had been approved, it was considered that as much information on the subject should be conveyed to other organisations - including the Town Council: to which end the Area Education Officer had been invited.

Mr. G.J. Davey gave an outline of the designation of community schools, of which there were 19 within the County although none had been designated since 1975, except where a local "package" had been involved. The package usually amounted to an investment of funds for the provision of a particular community facility.

The County Education Committee were currently reviewing community primary education and would take no decisions before Christmas 1985. In Godmanchester's case, it was envisaged that a "special case" could be presented to the Education Committee having regard to

- a) the School Governors' enthusiasm for a community school;
- b) the rate of the town's development;
- c) the fact that a new school is needed;
- d) the fact that there is only one community school at the present time in the Huntingdon Area; and
- c) the probability of local investment.

In the case of the latter point, it was reported that the District Council had declined to make any contribution; that the Community Association might invest and that the P.T.A. had still to decide whether to give financial support.

Mr. Davey went on to describe the differences between a designated community school and one not designated: in that in the former case active involvement by the Head Teacher and ancillary staff could be expected - and the school would form a natural centre for the Community Association. Any clubs and societies who affiliated to the Community School would have free use of the facilities, subject to meeting minor caretaking charges etc. Such a Community School would be managed through a locally agreed Finance and Management Scheme.

In the ensuing discussion the following points emerged:

1. that there was no minimum level of financial contribution;
2. that the County Council were in a position to fund the provision of a school with better classrooms than at present;
3. that funds could be injected later, although the County Council

needed to know for design purposes the type of facility to be provided:

4. the provision of tennis courts or similar sports area would attract Sports Council grant;
5. that the Community Association was in favour of a community school;
6. that running costs would be met by the local education authority in part and the balance was to be met from letting fees etc.,
7. that the total construction costs were estimated to be in excess of five million pounds: and
8. that a broad commitment was expected of the Town Council.

Thereupon, it was

Resolved.- (a) that the Town Council support in principle the application made by the School Governors for the development of a Community School in Godmanchester.

(b) that an urgent meeting of representatives of the Town Council, the P.T.A. and the Community Association with the School Governors be held; and that the Town Mayor undertake the liaison.

Before leaving, Mr. Davey was thanked for his attendance.

85/15 HUNTINGDON AREA LOCAL PLAN

The Town Council gave consideration to details contained in the draft Huntingdon Area Local Plan in relation to Godmanchester, with particular regard to the impact of residential growth on the already over-burdened infrastructure and to the impact of residential proposals for the Parks on the proximity of an enlarged primary school.

Mr. R. Probyn, Principal Planning Officer, explained many of the difficulties associated with the preparation of the local plan and, in particular, that of correlating decisions taken by the local education authority for the extension of the primary school in its present location. Similar problems might be associated with transportation difficulties, although the highway authority were of the view that the Huntingdon peripheral road would ameliorate some current difficulties.

However, the Town Council generally were not satisfied that the Plan took sufficient account of problems being generated by rapid residential expansion and thereupon

Resolved.- that Huntingdonshire District Council be informed that the Town Council object to the Huntingdon Area Local Plan proposals on the grounds that

(a) the Local Plan has no regard to traffic problems in Godmanchester and contains no proposals for their alleviation;

(b) the Plan's proposals for development of the Parks are rejected until proposals for resolving traffic problems in Post Street and the Avenue are approved and until final

plans with regard to the extension and provision of the Community School are approved.

Before leaving, Mr. Probyn was thanked for his attendance.

85/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on the 23rd May, 1985 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor subject to the amendment of the dates in Minute 85/7 to 16th January, 20th February, 20th March, April 10th, April 24th respectively; to the Mayoral Purse of £350 being shown in the Accounts and to it being noted that Councillor Hughes and not Councillor Mrs. Conway had made the proposal shown in Minute 85/13.

85/17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Following consideration of applications contained on the Schedule submitted, it was

Resolved.- that the Director of Planning be informed that the Town Council recommend as follows:-

- (a) three dwellings at 18, 19 and 20 London Street - APPROVAL
- (b) two houses and garages in Pipers Lane and double garage for 14 Old Court Hall - APPROVAL
- (c) extension to existing administration unit to facilitate conversion to single bedroom flat, 39 Tudor Road - APPROVAL

(Councillor Hughes requested that it be recorded that he had voted against recommendation (c) above).

85/18 ACCOUNTS

Resolved.- that the following payments be approved.-

Brian Baines (Office Supplies)	£94.	30
Godmanchester St. Mary's Men's Group	£175.	00
J. A. Davie	£120.	12
Inland Revenue	43.	50
Petty Cash	30.	00

85/19 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL

In a brief report, Councillor Hopkinson stated that the Architect was progressing with drawings and specification for the extensions to and refurbishments of the School and that he would need to appoint an engineer. It was also reported that consent to enter upon the land of the adjacent property owner would greatly facilitate the works, and thereupon it was

Resolved.- that the Queen Elizabeth School Working Party be authorised to deal with the appointment of an engineer and obtaining consent to enter upon the adjacent property.

85/20 PLAYSCHHEME 1985

Councillor Hughes referred briefly to the proposed programme and the need for reservation of coaches to be made. In this respect, and in all matters where facilities and services were to be used, it was emphasised that any order must be in the name of the Town

Council and that all accounts should be rendered to the Town Council.

Whereupon, it was

Resolved.- that Mr. B. Brown, Head Teacher, be informed of the foregoing.

85/21 RECREATION GROUND. Football Pitch

The Town Council were informed of a request for a football pitch to be provided on the Recreation Ground for the next season; whereupon it was

Resolved.- (a) that a football pitch be provided on the Recreation Ground at a fee of £35 for the season subject to the hirers supplying own goal posts and nets; and

(b) that the District Council be asked to mark out the pitch.

85/22 DISTRICT AUDIT

The Town Clerk gave a preliminary report of the audit of the accounts by the District Auditor for the previous financial year and referred to two matters raised with the District Auditor by a Town Councillor, both of which were outside the purview of the District Auditor, namely - the declaration of interests and the absence of Standing Orders. The Town Council noted the information given.

(Councillor Mrs. Conway, having left the meeting earlier, was not present when the foregoing information was given).

85/23 ADJOURNMENT

Having regard to the lateness of the hour, it was

Resolved.- that the meeting stand adjourned until the 20th June, 1985 at 7 p.m.

UPON RESUMPTION

Present: Councillor B.P. Doherty (Town Mayor);  
Councillors Mrs. J.B. Doherty, M.J. Hopkinson, F.T.D. Hughes,  
J.M. James, J.W. Lewis, Mrs. V. Harris, L. Miller, A.E.  
Sursham and Mrs. P. Tenten.

85/24 Prior to consideration of the remaining items of the Agenda, the Town Council heard from Councillor Lewis on the subject of Progress Reports and reiterated the decision that the subject should appear on Town Council Agenda.

85/25 QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL.

Councillor Hopkinson reported with regard to the progress being made by the Architect.

On the same subject, Councillor James reported that at a recent meeting of the Queen Elizabeth School Management Committee it had been agreed that the Committee should be reconstituted and comprise two Members of each of the Town Council, the Friends of the Queen Elizabeth School and the Community Association, based on the Terms of Reference originally established for the Management Committee. The Town Council's representatives would be Councillors James (Chairman of the Committee) and Mrs. Tenten.

85/26 GODSPA WORKING PARTY

Councillor Hopkinson reported that as shown on the details circulated at the meeting of the Town Council held on the 13th June, 1985, approximately £1,900 would have been spent, leaving about £100 still available. He reported that a new alarm system would be necessary in the light of the recent break-in, which would be additional capital expenditure for which the Town Council would, no doubt, receive a request for a further grant.

Councillors expressed their concern about the financial stability of Godspa and about ways of raising additional funds.

85/27 PLAYScheme 1985

No information was available to that given in Minute 85/20 and it was acknowledged that the subject would be considered further at the meeting of the Town Council to be held on the 18th July.

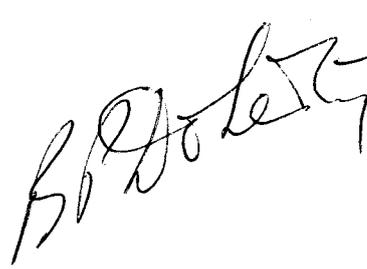
85/28 RECREATION AND AMENITY WORKING PARTY

In the light of population growth and the acknowledged desire for greater use of the school premises for recreation provision, the Town Council acknowledged that the question of funding the proposed community school should be considered at their next meeting.

Information was given with respect to the application by the Cricket Club for a grant of £3,250 and it was also noted that the subject would be considered further at the next meeting.

85/29 VOLUNTEER WORKING PARTY

Councillor Hughes gave brief information with regard to the progress being made on the Recreation Ground in particular relation to the Osier beds, the bridges and the hanging baskets.



Town Mayor